

**San Antonio, Texas** – Today, Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20), the Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Elections, praised the Department of Justice's [decision](#)

to deny preclearance to the State of South Carolina's new law that would place discriminatory barriers to citizens wishing to exercise their constitutionally protected right to vote.

"There is no right more fundamental to our American experience than the right to vote, and protecting it is one of the foremost jobs of the federal government and of the Department of Justice. A great deal of pressure has been brought on the Department of Justice to simply 'go-along' and let the states restrict voting. In the face of such pressure, I commend Attorney General Eric Holder and Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Tom Perez for their hard work to protect our country's most sacred right.

"As we celebrate our Independence Day tomorrow, and our freedom from 'Taxation Without Representation', it is appropriate that we give a moment's thought to the men and women who work and fight every day to keep us free from such tyranny. We are a better country and our democratic and republican systems are stronger thanks to their refusal to allow discriminatory laws to tarnish our claim to be the home of the free."

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